THE WOMAN'S

DREADNOUGHT

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OUR FRIENDS COME HOME: By P. J. Dollan

Almost a year ago a number of our friends on the Clyde were imprisoned by the Government because of the activity they had shown in opposing conscription, and otherwise protecting the liberties of the common people. When these comrades were carried off to prison the Government, no doubt, hoped their absence would break the back of the rebel movement on the Clyde and that in due course the prisoners themselves would be forgotten. If so the Government were mistaken as the men who were imprisoned and deported have not been forgotten, while even in prison their influence for Socialism has been greater than when they were at large.

Two of these democratic heroes came forth from prison at the week-end, and were received joyfully by friends who had neither apology nor excuse to offer for the men who had been branded with the broad arrow. The broad arrow which was once the badge of crime has become, in many cases, the mark of the martyr, because of the persecution of democrats by the Government during the War. And even our Government should have learnt by this time that in the people's movement martyrs are as powerful for good as were the martyrs who were persecuted because of their religious beliefs.

The two men who came out of prison at the week-end were James Maxton and James McDougall, and the "crime" for which they have suffered was that of advising the people to adopt the illegal method of the strike as a protest against the deportation of David Kirkwood and his comrades. That was in March last, and it is not without significance that the fate of the deportees should be approaching a definite settlement just as the two men who were imprisoned for protesting against the deportations have been released. If the deportees are allowed to come home then the men who protested against their deportation and have suffered for it are about to be justified. And there is good reason to believe that the deportees will come home soon.

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David Kirkwood, by his bold action in defying the deportation order by going home to Glasgow after the Manchester Conference, has brought the question of the deportees to a head and a settlement is inevitable. Public opinion now demands that the deportees shall come home or be placed on trial for a charge not yet defined. Public opinion is going to win, thanks to Kirkwood and his magnificent stand for the rights of citizenship. As all the world now knows, Kirkwood, after being four days at home as an outlaw went to a resort in Perthshire for a holiday where he was arrested and taken to Edinburgh Castle. His confinement in Edinburgh Castle was on the part of the Government an unconscious tribute to the power of the man whom they want to keep out of Glasgow until he signs a document "whitewashing his persecutors."

After being three days in the historic castle, Kirkwood was released *on parole* pending the result of the inquiry into his case which is proceeding in London at the time of writing. His workmates, stunned by his persecution, have made a strong appeal on his behalf, which it is hoped will not be in vain. The Government, after ten months, are now learning that every time they refuse to allow Kirkwood to return to his home they increase his influence and intensify the demand for his freedom. The longer he remains in unwilling exile the greater becomes his power for democracy.

For all the trouble that has happened on the Clyde the autocrats are to blame. It was they who attempted to enforce their will on the workers and the latter naturally resented the dictation. Because of their resentment they have been persecuted. Persecution, it should be known, is no remedy for mis-government: the remedy is good government by and for the people. Such a government will evolve out of all the suffering of the past two and a half bloodstained years, and will grow in strength as the nation wearies of the burden of despotism.

SHADOWS OF DAWN.

By Hudson Maxim.

The author of these verses, also inventor of smokeless powder and author of "The Science of Poetry," presented the poem to Henry Neil of Oak Park, in appreciation of Mr. Neil's work for mother's pensions in America.

A whir of dust is sweeping the hill,
Between the grey dawn and the huge black mill.
There's a drift of rags and of skinny bones,
With skeleton feet on the ruthless stones.
What spectres are these in the witching light—
This ghostly rear-guard of the night,
Wearily treading the trail of the dark,
Arousing the morn before the lark?
What wights are they, so gaunt and lean,
With lagging pace and drowsy mien,
Who under the dim lamp's flickering glow
Wind into the cavernous mill below?
A sortie of ghouls aloose from the tomb,
Or a rabble of wraiths begot of the gloom?
No—goblins and ghouls such task would shirk—
It is only the children going to work!

ADULT SUFFRAGE MEETING

On Saturday, February 10th, many of us went to the meeting at Kingsway Hall, under the auspices of the National Council for Adult Suffrage, with a feeling that the Adult Suffrage cause was moving on. The fact that the chief speaker was a member of the Speaker's Electoral Reform Conference seemed to lend importance to the occasion. When I arrived, the hall was quite full—the audience being mostly women of all classes and ages. Their appearance, and the knowledge that most of them were not what are styled "Adult Suffragists," but belonged to the category that demands "the vote on the same terms as men," led me to wonder at their presence.

Miss Margaret Ashton was in the chair. She cheered those of us who had Adult Suffrage at heart by saying that "Nothing can be satisfactory that is not equal and adult." Yet I could not help feeling all along that her attitude towards the question was not that which we had looked forward to—there was a lack of warmth and an indication that she would not really stand out to secure Adult Suffrage.

The letters read by Mr. Nevinson from the Bishop of Lincoln (who was to have been in the chair) and Mr. Garvin were well received. Mr. Garvin's statement was that of a convert to woman's suffrage. He argued that "the only cure for the defects of liberty is more liberty."

The first resolution was rather curiously worded:

"That this meeting welcomes the resolutions of the Speaker's Conference as a step on the way to a National Franchise, but urges the Government, in drafting their Bill, to introduce a simple and generous measure of franchise reform on the Adult Suffrage basis both for men and women."

It was seconded by Mr. Percy Alden, M.P., and carried unanimously.

In a long and measured address, Sir John Simon, whilst admitting that he was whole-heartedly with the objects of the meeting, warned us of the danger of "losing all because we did not get everything." He regarded it as a great advance that there seemed to him no possibility of a Bill embodying electoral reform being introduced without "some provision for woman suffrage." He said that Mr. Lloyd George had expressed the wish that the Speaker's Conference be continued on the change of Government. On the one hand, he stated, there are people who argue:

"If you were to have Adult Suffrage at a single blow, undoubtedly you would have more women voters than men. I have never been able to understand what is the real grievance or danger in that. So far as it is a matter of grievance, it would appear to me that if you proceed upon any logical basis, if you had more voters of a particular kind you would expect them to have more votes. The more serious argument is one of danger, as to which all I wish to say is that those who think it dangerous appear to me to labour under two fundamental fallacies. The first is the fallacy of supposing that no woman under any circumstances ever agrees with a man; and the second fallacy, one I should have thought equally amazing, is that under no possible circumstances does one woman ever disagree with another woman."

And then almost at the same moment he seemed to urge that *any* measure of woman's suffrage should be agreed on by all suffragists. He said:

"The time is critical in another sense, because we should indeed be to blame if we showed ourselves so feeble-hearted, so wanting in sagacity, to lose all merely because we did not get everything that we wanted."

Only when he referred to War being "hideous," no matter how righteous the cause, was there long and whole-hearted applause. His advocacy of the suffrage question sounded unreal or too half-hearted for an audience which ardently desired complete Adult Suffrage.

It seemed to me that Miss Mary Macarthur and Mrs. Barton were whole-hearted Adult Suffragists, and they backed their arguments by examples from every-day life. No less convincing was Mr. W. C. Anderson, who said:

"Permanent and enduring peace after War can only come from women and men, not from militarists."

The audience hailed with enthusiasm references to Home Rule for Ireland and Peace.

M. O'C.

GIVE THIS PAPER TO A FRIEND

LEST WE FORGET—THE WOMEN.

Our gibe at voteless woman is a daily 'un,
We rank her for the franchise with the ALIEN.
We mark her down as IDIOT and LUNATIC
I know, as these, some voters' names I'd sooner tick.
Men must have thoughts one would not care to dwell on
To class, for votes, his daughter with a FELON.
MY wife has raised my babes, for this I thank her
And cannot therefore as an INFANT rank her
She'd use a vote as BANKRUPT or as PAUPER
Better than rich folk sunk in selfish torpor,
The rake, the ignoramus and the sot
May have the vote, but Mother, she may not!

—REGINALD POTT, *Home*, 1917.

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Bravely and willingly we bear our share of the World's burdens. Why, then, deny us the right to Vote, which would dignify our labour and increase our Power of Service?

IS ADULT SUFFRAGE PRACTICAL?

"I would support a Bill that would give votes to women with red hair!"

"Or women six feet high!!"

"Anything to get the principle accepted!!!"

Yes, yes, we know the argument: it was old in the time of our grandmothers, and we ourselves have heard it repeated constantly ever since those far-off days when it was possible for Mrs. Jacob Bright, a great woman pioneer, to ask quite seriously, though much to our own surprise, whether we and our sisters would fall into the fire, if left in the room alone.

In the days of our short frocks and muslin pinafores it was the mothers whom the expediency-mongers attempted to sacrifice, and having proved themselves to be false prophets and unsuccessful guides throughout the history of the suffrage movement, they are now again to the fore, urging that the claim to citizenship of the young women should be abandoned, and that all other women should be handicapped by a property barrier to the franchise.

The old parrot cry: "Anything to get the principle accepted," is now brought out as though it were entirely new, born expressly to meet this particular situation. Strangely enough, it is heard in the mouths of some who were adult suffragists firmly opposed to all suggestion of compromise, in the days when those who were fighting the battle of argument for the principle of women's suffrage were still hardly pressed. To-day the battle of argument has been won both in the country and in Parliament. Indeed, it is a fact that the House of Commons has already accepted the principle of women's suffrage, for, as Sir John Simon in his Kingsway Hall speech quite accurately said, no franchise measure which does not include women has a chance of being passed by the House.

It is equally true, though not so commonly realised, that the *terms* on which women shall be enfranchised now rest ultimately with suffragists, for, since suffragist Members of Parliament form a large majority in the House, those terms, and only those terms which are acceptable to suffragists can be carried.

A majority of the House undoubtedly accepts manhood suffrage, a majority undoubtedly accepts women's suffrage. Obviously, therefore, we must bend our efforts to secure that the supporters of women's suffrage shall unite in demanding *womanhood* suffrage. But, as ever, the expediency-mongers are now to be heard urging us all to refrain from quite definitely demanding Adult Suffrage, or even from voicing the old cry: "Votes for women on the same terms as men."

Some timid souls, as is always the case, have already retired to the last ditch and are prepared to accept for themselves and to incur the responsibility of accepting for all womanhood, the double handicap of an age restriction, and a property qualification: they frankly say we will take anything that is offered. Other compromisers offer to accept either the age restriction, or the property qualification. Others say that they are prepared to accept the age-limit, but not the property qualification; and this particular school is endeavouring to secure unity on these lines, by whittling down the demands of those who desire complete adult suffrage, and those who want votes for women on the same terms as men, whatever those terms may be; and by stiffening up the courage of those who will take whatever is offered.

These compromisers are doing incalculable harm because they are injuring the chances of securing adult suffrage. Their stock argument and excuse is that once the sex disability is removed an improved franchise can easily be secured. They overlook the fact that although the municipal franchise was restored to women in 1869, by the year 1908 only 871,768 women (less than 10 per cent. of the adult womanhood of the country) were on the Local Government Register for England and Wales. Undoubtedly, whatever franchise is established now will only be changed as a result of tremendous effort. Parliament is always reluctant to deal with franchise reform, as the long intervals between the Reform Acts of 1832, 1867, 1885, and the long interval since 1885, are enough to prove.

And there is yet another group, which urges us not to criticise the proposals of the Speaker's Conference, because, they say, it is essential to secure the introduction of a Government measure which shall include some form of women's suffrage, and because they fear that unless this measure is apparently to be received with general agreement, the Government may fail to introduce it at this time. That the Government may fail to introduce the measure this session is of course a possibility, but that possibility will remain, however meekly, or weakly, we may assent to a half or quarter measure of reform. The poor little Conciliation Bill would have enfranchised less than two million women, but the anti-suffragists refused to accept it, Mr. Asquith and others even declaring that their dislike to the principle was enhanced by the fact that the Bill would give votes to some women and not to all. We are told that the measure of enfranchisement which women will get under the expected Bill is the measure of what Lord Curzon, who is now a Cabinet Minister, will accept; but there is no guarantee that Lord Curzon will accept either the terms proposed by the Speaker's Conference or any others. Happily, however, the issue does not rest with Lord Curzon, for, though he may conceivably delay the measure for a while, the Government will be obliged by pressure of circumstances to deal with franchise and registration in the near future. The War has wrought such vast changes that the old system has broken down. Ministers must legislate soon, and when they do, we are all agreed, that they must bring the women in. It would be folly, therefore, and worse than folly, to abandon the hope of adult suffrage in order to hasten the pace by a few months or weeks.

But we are told that the original terms of the Government measure are of no importance, for once the Bill is introduced it can be remodelled. We reply that if a Bill which falls short of adult suffrage should be introduced, it would be the duty of suffragists to concentrate on turning it into an Adult Suffrage measure. But, if before the introduction of the Bill they had allowed it to be assumed that they would not insist upon Adult Suffrage, their subsequent efforts would be most grievously handicapped. In any case, Governments are usually more willing to modify their proposals before, than after they have been published to the world. Once Ministers have publicly declared their intentions, their personal pride and the loyalty of their supporters become factors to be reckoned with, and even those Members of Parliament who have pledged themselves to particular causes are apt to say: "The Minister has spoken: his dignity will not allow him to withdraw." It is well that if possible the Government should realise the full strength of the adult suffrage movement before it formulates its proposals.

Above all, it is imperative that we who belong to the Adult Suffrage movement should keep our minds free from all thought of failure or compromise. We cannot win if we spend our energies in seeking for some half-measure. We cannot expect to have Adult Suffrage offered to us if we show a disposition to take something less.

The Parliamentary atmosphere is saturated with compromise; hardly the stoutest-hearted can withstand it. Movements led from Parliament make little headway, for they are clogged by it. If those of us who are outside, living in close contact with the vital urgent need of suffering men and women, cannot maintain our principles intact, it is useless to expect Members of Parliament to do so.

After all the years of effort and struggle, shall we haul down the equal franchise colours now, even before a Government measure has been introduced? When the Asquith Reform Bill of 1912 was withdrawn because the Speaker ruled the women's suffrage amendments to be out of order and because the Bill could not secure a majority unless women were included, the Amendment standing in the name of Sir Edward Grey was the one which it was thought would secure the largest majority in the House. This Amendment would have given the vote to the wives of Parliamentary electors, who would qualify on a residential basis, and to unmarried women and widows who were Local Government electors: there was no suggestion of giving the vote to women at a later age than to men. Though it fell short of adult suffrage, this amendment offered a much more satisfactory basis of enfranchisement than that suggested by the Speaker's Conference which, beside postponing the women's vote till thirty or thirty-five years of age, would only enable women to qualify as owners or tenants or the wives of owners or tenants. The Adult Suffrage idea has made tremendous headway since 1912. Those who were then bitterly opposed to manhood suffrage are to-day its champions, and its establishment in the forthcoming Government measure is assured. If we will have it so the same can be made true of womanhood suffrage.

Here is a case as reported in the "Evening News," which should cause us to redouble our efforts to secure votes for the young women who work:—

An important case came before the London Munitions Tribunal when seven young women appeared to answer a charge of refusing to obey a lawful order. Four of the girls were further charged with absenting themselves without leave. This case was taken first. A representative of the firm said that the girls were ordered by the lady superintendent to go on C.E. work, which consisted of making pellets, but they refused. The witness interviewed them, and they admitted to him that the doctor had found them fit to do the work. They contended, however, that they did not consider themselves fit, and they also objected because one of the consequences might be possible discolouration. They had previously been employed on T.N.T. shell filling.

The Chairman (the Hon. J. Talbot): "You were aware that the work is very urgent?"

"Yes," replied one of the girls.

The Chairman: "We know it is badly wanted for our men at the front. Still, you are not willing to help?"

"No, sir." She added that she was willing to go on T.N.T. filling. Another girl said they thought they ought to have masks.

The chairman, in fining the girls 15s. each, said that the work was very important, although it had disagreeable circumstances.

The Clerk: "Do you want time to pay?"

The Girls (in chorus): "We won't pay. We refuse to pay. We are not labour conscripts. We are volunteers."

This brief report gives no indication of the terrible danger and sufferings to which the women who work with poisonous explosives are subjected, but it illustrates the fact that they can be forced against their will to engage in an injurious trade. No franchise Bill should be accepted which would bar out such women!

No such franchise need be accepted if those who desire a broader measure will but make an unfaltering demand for it. It is often said that if Labour knew its strength, it could rule the world. If we Adult Suffragists will but realise our strength to-day, Adult Suffrage can be secured.

SYLVIA PANKHURST.

ISRAEL ZANGWILL

"It is obvious that the back of the opposition has been broken, although it has not yet received the 'Knock-out Blow' involved in the victory of Adult Suffrage, which is ultimately inevitable."—Israel Zangwill.

ELECTORAL REFORM DEBATE

The "Daily Telegraph" announces:—"Ministers have agreed to grant a day for a debate upon the recommendations of the Speaker's Conference on Electoral Reform. The date has not yet been fixed, but it will probably be in the week after next. Mr. Walter Roch had an amendment to the Address on the subject, but consented to withdraw it on receiving the promise of the Government."

PEACE & THE SPRING OFFENSIVE

The Big Push caused the loss of at least 500,000 British lives. Help to bring the War to an end before the spring offensive by joining the East London Demonstration on April 2nd. Procession from Barking Road, Canning Town, at 3 p.m. *via* East India Dock Gates to Victoria Park. Offer your help in chalking, canvassing, literature distribution, to Mr. Lane, Hon. Sec. to the Joint Demonstration Committee at 123 Hampton Road, Forest Gate, or in speaking to Mrs. Bouvier, 400 Old Ford Road, E. The spring offensive will mean death to hundreds of thousands of British men, and bereavement to hundreds of thousands of British families.

QUESTIONS OF THE DAY

FOOD SHORTAGE AND SUBMARINES

In the House of Lords on February 14th, Lord Curzon belittled the submarine peril, stating that in thirty months of war the net loss from all causes of the British mercantile marine amounted to only from 5 to 6 per cent. of the gross tonnage. He then proceeded to explain that 75 per cent. of the entire mercantile marine is engaged in naval or military service for Britain or the Allies, only 25 per cent. of the merchant shipping being left to supply all civil needs. Naval and military requisitioning is thus undoubtedly a much more serious peril to the civilian population than the dreaded submarine, though the loss of 5 or 6 per cent. of the tonnage is a serious matter to the people if it is to be deducted from the civilian 25 per cent. Clearly the greatest injury wrought by the submarines is that they blind people to the fact that it is the actual prosecution of the war which causes the main part of our hardship. This fact notwithstanding, we must all feel very deep and compassionate sympathy for those who are forced to encounter the submarine peril upon the cold winter sea. Especially must we regret the cruel fate which brings innocent children into contact with this phase of modern barbarism.

Lord Curzon announced that imports will be still further restricted, and that the importation of non-essential commodities will be prohibited. In this connection we would draw attention to the comments of Professor Leathes of the Sheffield University, on the rations laid down by the Food Controller. The professor explains that 3lb. of flour, 2½lb. of meat, ¾lb. of sugar yield about 1,230 calories per head daily of energy for work and body heat, and that an adult weighing 9st 5lb. requires 2,400 calories daily. He says that the Food Controller's rations should be supplemented by such a list of foods as the following :—

	Calories.
About 200 calories.	
1oz. of butter or margarine supplies	225
½lb. of potatoes	220
½ pint of milk	180
About 100 calories.	
1oz. of cheese	120
1oz. of oatmeal, dry as purchased	110
1oz. of rice, dry as purchased	100
1oz. of dried peas, beans, or lentils	100
About 50 calories.	
1 egg	60
½lb. of carrots, as purchased	40
,, Jerusalem artichokes	90
,, onions, as purchased	50
,, beets ,,	45
,, parsnips ,,	60
,, apples ,,	55
,, pears ,,	65
,, bananas ,,	75
,, grapes ,,	80
,, strawberries ,,	45
,, raspberries ,,	40
,, cherries ,,	85

The mass of people cannot afford to live on the Professor's scale at present. What is to happen if imports are to be still further restricted and prices still further raised?

WOMEN JUDGES.

Women Justices sat in Court at Brisbane for the first time on February 13th.

LABOUR PARTY AND SPEAKER'S CONFERENCE

The Parliamentary Labour Party has passed a resolution urging the Government to introduce early legislation on the lines of the Speaker's Conference report. The Party has also decided to invite the Parliamentary Committee of the Trade Union Congress to co-operate in convening a representative National Conference of industrial organisations with a view to furthering the objects of the resolution.

We trust that the Conference will insist upon getting something very much better than the proposals of the Speaker's Conference.

THE "UNWORTHY"

It is not generally known that there is a special department of the War Office housed at the Tate Gallery, the business of which is to arrange for the stoppage of separation allowances and pensions of soldiers' wives and widows who are considered "unworthy." Pensions and allowances of soldiers' dependants may be stopped without their recipients being legally convicted of any offence. We learn that in many cases a report against the wife or widow is made by the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. We wish to know whether before the allowance is stopped and the children are handed over to the Society any Government Inspector or other person verifies the statements made by the Society. We also wish to know whether the Society is expected to maintain the children on the same miserable pittance allowed for children by the War Office, or whether the Society has in addition the amount allowed to feed and clothe the mother. We are also informed that the police report and investigate many cases of alleged unworthiness. When the intention to place soldiers' wives under police supervision was first disclosed, it was received with so much public indignation that it was ostensibly withdrawn, but the supervision apparently continues *sub rosa*. When the matter was publicly discussed, many soldiers protested that they could not trust the police to act as supervisors of their wives. It appears to us that a policeman is at least as likely to take undue advantage of power to report against a soldier's wife as a soldier's wife is to go astray.

A SUFFRAGIST'S PROTEST

The public examination of Dr. Patch (Women's Freedom League) in the bankruptcy proceedings against her by the Inland Revenue Department, brought together a large crowd of suffragists belonging to all suffrage societies at Bankruptcy Buildings Tuesday morning. The officials were astonished to see women bring in extra benches and overflowing into the solicitors' seats and the Press pen. The usual first item on the programme is the swearing of the alleged bankrupt. Dr. Patch was therefore invited to take the oath, but replied that that was impossible, as she could not bow to the authority of that Court; a suggestion that she should affirm instead of swearing received the same answer. The Court being thus up against an insurmountable obstacle, awaited a moment and thought it over. Dr. Patch refused to answer any questions, "not recognising that the Court had any authority over her," and the only information that the Court could secure was that she was determined not to pay the tax demanded, and that nothing they could do would make her. Asked whether she quite understood the fearful consequences of persistence (in imprisonment, &c.), she assured the Court that she was prepared for anything that might come. Further progress seemed difficult, and the solicitor to the Commissioners of Inland Revenue suggested that the proceedings should be adjourned sine die, but the Court preferred to adjourn it for three weeks, making the cryptic remark that three weeks would be "quite sufficient." The next gathering, therefore, will be on February 27th at 11 a.m. at Bankruptcy Buildings, Carey Street. This is the official "Women's Day," and very appropriate for the next stage of this protest.

A FABIAN CONFERENCE

At a conference arranged by the Fabian Research Department on the Restoration of Trade Union Conditions, Mrs. Sidney Webb said that the idea of State-aided monopolist associations of capital had recently received a great development, and she mentioned as instances President Wilson's suggestion to abrogate the Shearman Law against trusts, and in particular, Mr. Ernest Benn's proposal to unite all capitalists for the purpose of increasing productivity, and replacing competition by co-operation. Mr. Benn's view of the function of the State in this was that it should (a) promote research, (b) secure markets by diplomatic policy and a thorough revision of the Consular service, (c) prevent restriction of output on either side. Mr. Benn considered that Labour must be largely represented in any such associations, and instanced the Industrial Builders' Parliament as an example of a going concern of this kind. Mrs. Webb said that Labour must decide (a) whether it should take part in such associations, as it would certainly be invited to do; (b) whether it should enter into open war with them, or (c) stand outside, but not refuse to negotiate. She thought that if Labour joined such associations trade unions would obtain greater recognition and possibly a measure for compulsory trade unionism; but, on the whole, it was inadvisable for them to join, on account of three great dangers: (a) The trade union leaders had not brains enough to maintain their authority on Joint Boards; (b) there was a great temptation for employers and employed to unite in robbing the consumer; (c) it would involve trade unions in an acceptance of the status quo with no hope of redistribution either of wealth or power.

Mr. G. J. Wardle, the chairman of the Labour Party, saw no sign of the existence of such close-knit organisations as Mrs. Webb had mentioned, though he expected to see them in the future. He regarded a transitional period of capitalism on a large scale as inevitable, and this had certain advantages for the trade unions in enabling them to negotiate for the whole trade at once; but the important question was whether they should be entirely in the hands of capitalists or under joint control, or controlled by the State or the municipalities. He thought the State was too young to own huge industrial aggregations, and that it should confine itself to protecting the consumers' interests. With regard to industrial Parliaments, he had an open mind; he did not think they would equalise distribution of power and wealth, but it was necessary for the trade unions to pass through a transition stage of part control.

VENEREAL DISEASES

The controversy as to the proper treatment of venereal diseases still rages.

Mr. E. W. Morris, House Governor of the London Hospital, urges that soldiers who are incapacited by these diseases should be punished, as those are who shoot off their fingers to get away from the fighting line.

Sir A. Conan Doyle hysterically asserts that soldiers are being "preyed upon and poisoned" by "vile" women, and apparently desires that some coercive step should be taken against these women. We are sorry for the man who goes astray, though his punishment is always less heavy than that of the woman, but we cannot forget that the man who is able to say "No" need fear no woman. We entirely agree with the suggestion that the museums and picture galleries should be opened, and the houses of ill-fame permanently closed.

The Home Secretary has given notice that he will introduce a Bill dealing with sexual offences. This must be carefully watched.

NOTES FROM THE MIDLANDS: By Omnifrage

York, if rumour is worth anything, has the impression that all the story concerning the suicide of Lieut. Beit has not been told, or if told, has not been allowed to get into the papers.

Whether this be the case or not, the affair is deplorable—and discreditable to someone. It is a simple matter for a jury to return a verdict of suicide during temporary insanity, but does any person believe that this boy, under happier circumstances, was by temperament predisposed to take his life? If there had been any evidence of such predisposition it would certainly have been brought out at the inquest. Can there be any doubt that Lieut. Beit was "ragged," hounded to his death. There are ugly tales inclusive of horse-whipping and "German Jew" rife in York City in connection with this affair, and if only in order to clear innocent persons, a public inquiry ought to be instituted at once.

There is a military inquiry being held behind closed doors. I do not hope for much from this, but that court will be grossly failing in its duty if it does not consider the position of Major Alan Boyd Reynolds who, at the inquest, said he should not treat the wrecking of the dead boy's room as a military offence. It may be the gallant officer has no option in the matter; I do not pretend to a knowledge of military law and discipline. But I venture to assert that the wrecking of the troopers' room at York Barracks by the men, not the officers, would be visited with severe punishment, including stoppages of pay. One paper describes young Beit as the "Victim of a Prank." It is rather a matter for truth than taste, and I prefer to call him the victim of as flagrant a case of callous hooliganism as ever occupied the attention of a criminal court. In fairness to the other officers of the army, justice without mercy ought to be meted out to those whose conduct contributed to this disgusting affair.

* * * *

Women have got the vote! To any rejoinder warning me of sanguinity I must counter by relating a little incident which happened when I had the pleasurable honour of making the personal acquaintance of the Editor of this paper. It was in September of 1915, and in the course of conversation I said to Miss Pankhurst that the War had given the women the vote. She said she was not so comfortable in her mind about it, and cited various reasons in support of her view. The Speaker's Committee has proved me to be right. I do not think it has done more than that, nor am I at all impressed with the Committee's proposals. But what gives me cause for much satisfaction is the general admission by men of all shades of political thought that the recommendations not only do not go far enough, but are illogical. During the past few weeks I have had the opportunity of speaking to the leaders of both Liberal and Conservative organisations in the Midlands, and all volunteered the opinion that Parliament will go further than did the Speaker's Committee.

The new attitude is not really difficult to understand. Once admitted the claim of the women to political freedom, the two big parties are naturally eager to enlist the strength of this great body of new voters under their own colours. I am afraid that at the first general election the Conservatives will capture a majority of the women's votes. Their Primrose Leagues are far more numerous and better equipped than are the Liberal Associations. It is for the suffrage societies to disillusion the adherents of both parties.

But over and above these considerations, the thing to remember is that the vote is won. Personally, I am going to give my attention very largely in the future to the problem of direct representation in the Commons. Logically there can be advanced no sound argument against women M.P.s. Who will be the first candidate?

"THE BUGLE"

To the Editor of THE WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT.

Dear Editor,—I am sorry to have to draw attention to a somewhat serious misstatement in your kind notice of the suspension of "The Bugle" in your current (February 3rd) issue. The paper was not suspended, as you allege, owing to the refusal of the Tribunal to grant complete exemption to me on conscientious grounds, but—as was very clearly stated in the final issue, copy of which was sent you—because of the refusal of the Tribunal to grant further exemption to the works' foreman, on whom, after severe reduction of the staff owing to military demands, the continuation of publication depended.

As a matter of fact, during my recent imprisonment for an alleged offence under the Defence of the Realm Act, the paper was carried on—obviously without any assistance from me—by Mrs. Mace-Matthews, the editor and proprietor, and the decision of the Tribunal as to my conscience claim had no bearing whatever on the question of suspending the newspaper, which was decided upon and publicly announced some time before my appeal was considered.—Yours truly, EDWARD FULLER, late assistant editor of "The Bugle."

Wanstead, February 2nd, 1917.

The action taken by the Joint Board, and the "Statement" issued by the Labour Party, which are referred to in the following pages, deserve a reply. Here it is. It is addressed to the entire Labour, Trade Union, and Socialist organisations of Great Britain. Study it well, and discuss it in your Societies, for the future well-being of the Working-Class Movement depends upon your verdict.

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NEWS FROM THE CLYDE

The following comparison of the statements made by the Government and by the Clyde Workers' Committee in regard to the Clyde deportations is of special interest in view of the arrest and release of David Kirkwood :—

Government Point of View.

1. Kirkwood was a leading member of the Clyde Workers' Committee, which was an unofficial organisation actively hostile to the Trade Union movement. This Committee at the end of March brought about a series of strikes as a protest against the Government's policy of dilution of labour by the introduction of women or unskilled labour to do certain parts of the work. The method adopted in these strikes was to bring out the workmen in succession in various works engaged on the production of parts of a particular heavy gun and gun-mountings for which the most urgent demands were being received.

2. Kirkwood and other men concerned refused all attempts at conciliation. In order to meet the position, the Government had no alternative but to avail themselves of the powers given by the Defence of the Realm Regulations. This action took the form of arresting and bringing to trial certain men who had in public advocated the "down tool" policy, and in deporting 10 men who, while they had not publicly advocated the policy, were known to have abetted it. Among these latter was Kirkwood. It should be mentioned in this connection that the Defence of the Realm Regulations definitely contemplated that there should be cases in which deportation and not trial was the proper remedy, and it was decided that Regulation 14 could properly be applied in these cases.

3. Before the men were removed the case of each man was fully investigated by the Procurator-Fiscal and by the competent Military Authority. All the men were given the alternative of returning quietly to work or leaving the Glasgow area. All except one chose the latter alternative and he was allowed to return to work and no further action was taken against him. Further, in the course of an interview which followed in Edinburgh, three men, of whom Kirkwood was one, were asked whether they would prefer to be put on their trial and they expressed their preference for deportation.

(The last four clauses of the official statement simply deal with the Government's action towards the deportees after the deportations).

Clyde Workers' Committee Point of View.

1. The Clyde Workers' Committee is an organisation consisting of trade unionists, and its chief members are Shop Stewards from the different engineering and shipbuilding works on the Clyde. It is unofficial in that it forms no part of the Trade Union machinery; but it is not hostile, either actively or passively, to the Trade Union movement. If it were it would have been impossible for Mr. Kirkwood to have been elected as delegate for the A.S.E. to the Labour Party Conference, 1917.

The Clyde Workers Committee called out no men towards the end of March, 1916, nor were they opposed to dilution of labour provided guarantees were given against rate-cutting. In fact, at Barr and Stroud's, Mr Muir, a leader of the C.W.C., had arranged a successful scheme of dilution, and was peaceably at work at the time of the strikes. The whole of the strikes were spontaneous shop movements.

The true facts of the dispute are as follows :—

(i) It has long been the custom at Parkhead Forge, where the trouble first arose, that the Convener of Shop Stewards has the right to go into any shop in which a dispute is in progress. In accordance with this custom, Mr. David Kirkwood, the Convener, went into one of the new departments in which women are at work under the dilution scheme. This was reported to the management, which thereupon refused Mr. Kirkwood permission to enter the departments without the definite sanction of the management. Mr. Kirkwood resigned his position as Convener. The remainder of the Shop Stewards then held a meeting, and after a failure to get satisfaction from the management, departmental meetings of the men decided to stop work. Mr. Kirkwood had nothing to do with calling out the men, and he even persuaded certain soldiers who had come out with the rest to resume, and prevented the electricians, whose work is essential to keep the blast-furnaces going, from coming out in sympathy.

(ii) There was no deliberate plan to stop work on a type of gun vitally needed for the army. The facts on these points are these: Parkhead was 'finishing' a gun, the rough work on which was being done by a sub-contracting firm. When the men at Parkhead came out, the employees of this sub-contracting firm were asked to do 'finishing' work as well as 'roughing-out.' They refused on the ground that they could not do 'black work,' i.e., they pointed out that, when the Parkhead Forge was working, the 'finishing' was always done there and that the sub-contracting firm was only asked to 'finish' when the Parkhead men had struck. At the same time, the workers at Dalmuir, who had been for some time in a state of unrest over a grievance of their own, also struck in sympathy. This is the whole of the supposed deliberate plan to hold up any particular munitions of war.

(iii) The Clyde Workers' Committee has not embarked on any definite policy of holding up the production of the most important munitions of war. They have not followed the gun from shop to shop, and the officials of the Committee did not even know that the particular gun was being made in the shops concerned.

2. So far from refusing all attempts at conciliation, the C.W.C., through its prominent members, had in at least two cases arranged schemes of dilution. Indeed, the men at Parkhead Forge, where the dispute originated, only "came out" after repeated attempts to obtain a solution of the actual point at issue. Throughout the disputes, the C.W.C., in so far as it took up any official attitude, maintained that the strike at Parkhead was for the maintenance of the Shop Steward's right of inspection. The strike was not against dilution nor against the Government, but against an employer of labour for an attack upon shop custom and recognised practice.

The alternative to a use of the Defence of the Realm Act was for the Government to have induced the employers in question to adopt the attitude already taken up by Barr and Stroud's. There, a scheme of dilution was working, and the Convener of the Shop Stewards was freely allowed to inspect its working.

3. In some cases at least, the "full investigation" by the Procurator-Fiscal and by the competent Military Authority took the form of removing the implicated men from their beds and giving them the option of being taken to Edinburgh, Aberdeen, etc. If investigation did take place, then it was in these cases either secret or after the deportations and not before. To offer to the deportees when they were actually being deported, security from punishment for offences of which they deemed themselves not guilty, does not constitute investigation.

This information was given to one of the members of the N.C.C.L. who investigated the whole matter on the spot.

PEACE MEETING
Victoria Park, To-Morrow
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Speakers: Mr. FOWLER SHONE, Mrs. BOUVIER Mr. J. ARNALL

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A friend has placed at the disposal of the W.S.F. a shop at 85 Hoxton Street, Whitechapel, which we hope to make a centre for advanced literature in East London. Attached to the shop is a good meeting hall. A further announcement will be made as soon as the date of opening is fixed. Miss Olive Beamish, who is kindly taking charge of the venture, appeals to friends for gifts of oil lamps, as owing to War conditions there may be difficulty in securing the installation of gas for some time to come.

PARLIAMENT AS WE SEE IT

THE USUAL HYPOCRISIES.

February 7th.—The King opened Parliament with the usual pomp and ceremony.

The King's Speech was wholly confined to the War: it contained the ominous statement that: "The accomplishment of the task to which I have set My hand will entail unsparing dmands on the energies and resources of all My subjects." The high and mighty possessive tone of it could hardly be outdone by the Kaiser. We notice that the King is offering to make no sacrifice on his own account.

In moving the Address to the Throne, Mr. McCurdy flippantly said: "We all desire peace. But I suppose each of us desires to enter the Kingdom of Heaven. We are not in a hurry!" In order to rebuke Germany he said: "If larceny is contemptible, it does not become respectable if carried out on a large scale." But that is exactly what does happen, as the poor, who are despoiled by the profiteers, know to their cost. He concluded with a verse from Wordsworth—such digressions have become the rule in Parliament on such occasions.

Admiral Sir H. Meux, who seconded the Address, quoted Longfellow, and, by the way, most inaptly. He absurdly said: "I have read in a book that very little food is sufficient for the man who is well-nurtured, and, of course, we are all well-nurtured in this country." Can a child brought up a member of a large underfed family in a one or two-roomer tenement be called "well-nurtured?" The Admiral continued: "'Sound sleep comes of moderate eating. He rises early and his wits are with him.' That is all very well as regards food, but in reference to drink I find it states that, 'Wine is as good as life to a man if it be drunk moderately,'" which means that the Admiral is not averse to turning the screw of starvation upon the people but that he does not want the liquor interests to be interfered with. Colonel Yate, another "last man and last shilling" jingo, protested against shooting game out of season.

MR. ASQUITH'S QUESTIONS.

Mr. Asquith began with a string of even more elaborate compliments than usual, and ended with an appeal for unity and the "concentration of every resource in men, in women, in everything within our reach." He asked for information as to the scope and purpose of the Imperial Conference, and whether its business would be with the prosecution of the War or with settlement and reconstruction; also how many men had been withdrawn from agricultural labour under the recent Order, how far adequate substitutes had been provided, how much land would be left unploughed because of the withdrawal of labour: he asked for further information on wheat and potato prices: whether more merchant vessels had been requisitioned for the Army and Navy, what steps had been taken to carry out Lloyd George's promise to nationalise British shipping, and what was being done to build more ships.

MR. BONAR LAW'S EVASION.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. Bonar Law, replied for the Government, though there were cries for the Prime Minister, who was not present. He could not give more than general answers to Mr. Asquith's questions as he had not had notice of them, though, of course, he ought to have known that such questions would be put. In regard to the Imperial Conference, he said: "When these Prime Ministers come it is quite obvious that we cannot lay down hard-and-fast lines as to what they are to be permitted and what they are not to be permitted to discuss." His review of the military situation was gloomy in the extreme, in spite of his protestations to the contrary. He said: "It has been a comparatively dead season, but I am glad to say that since the House rose there has been nothing in the nature of disaster. . . . With regard to Roumania . . . we all recognise the terrible disaster which has befallen her . . . but . . . the position has not grown worse . . . a large part of the Roumanian Army is still in being . . . thanks, I am glad to say, largely to the action of British officers a great part of the corn which the Germans depended on getting from Roumania has been destroyed, and we have reason to believe that the oil wells have been scientifically and successfully closed." (Does that mean destroyed?)

AMERICAN NEUTRALITY?

Mr. Bonar Law made the following extraordinary remark in regard to the American President:—"President Wilson throughout has shown . . . that he wished peace; I will not say on any terms which the Allies could be induced to accept."

Does Mr. Bonar Law intend to suggest, then, that the Allies have decided whether America should or should not come into the War? Is there another secret alliance?

INSULTING THE HOUSE.

Mr. Pringle said that this was the first time in the history of the House of Commons that a Prime Minister in ordinary health had absented himself during the debate on the Address, and complained that the heads of departments, who might have answered Mr. Asquith's questions, were absent also. He recalled Mr. Lloyd George's statement at Carnarvon that hundreds of thousands of tons were already added to the British mercantile marine. If this were so, why was no account of it given to the House?

THE PLIMSOLL LINE.

It was stated in the Press that the load line was to be altered in order to increase the carrying capacity of ships. Was this so, and would it not decrease speed and increase danger?

[We know that when Mr. Lloyd George was President of the Board of Trade before the War he diminished the safety of merchant ships by raising the load line. A new Plimsoll is needed to cry "Murder" in the House.]

NATIONALISATION OR CONTROL.

Mr. Pringle, with "I am not a member of the Labour Party, if indeed there is such a thing as a Labour Party," pointed out that that party had agreed to join the new Ministry on the promise that shipping and mines would be nationalised, yet Mr. Bonar Law had now told the House that all that was meant by nationalisation of shipping was something like the existing control of the railways. He understood that there was to be a Controller of Mines; there would certainly need to be a Controller of all the Controllers. He protested against the introducing of the National Service scheme without even informing Parliament.

TRUANCY OF WAR COUNCIL.

Mr. King asked for a Government statement on the objects of the Rome Conference of the Allies. He complained that the members of the War Council, which ought to sit daily, were constantly going away: One member was at Petrograd, another had gone to Rome, another had got married and taken a honeymoon, another went to the Labour Conference in Manchester.

THE RUSSIAN JEWS.
DEPORTEES MAY CHOOSE.

Mr. King understood that some months ago the British Government had asked the Russian Government what it should do with the Russian Jews, but the Russian Government had not replied. Perhaps Lord Milner was now discussing this in Petrograd. The War Office for six months had threatened to deport all Russian Jews to Russia, but in the case of the Duke of Chateau-Thierry the Courts had just decided that the regulation of the Defence of the Realm Act, giving the Home Office power to deport any foreigner to any country is illegal, and that deportees have the right to choose the country to which they will go. What would the War Office do now? Would there be a new Defence of the Realm Act to make it legal to deport any person anywhere?

"AGENTS-PROVOCATEURS."

Mr. King protested against the use by the Government of "agents-provocateurs," who were sent to conscientious objectors, active trade unionists, and any who were "unfortunate or uncomfortable for the Government," and told to make friends with them and induce them "to go over the limits of the law." He knew of "two other definite cases" beside the Derby case.

MRS. SHEEHY SKEFFINGTON.

Mr. King pointed out that now that Mrs. Sheehy Skeffington had successfully escaped to her friends in America, for which she had to resort to a disguise, the Government is doing its utmost to prevent information reaching this country about the wonderful reception she is receiving throughout America. He dubbed this action as a piece of "despicable meanness."

ALLIED DEMANDS CRITICISED.

Mr. Buxton said the Allied demands had fortified the extremist party in Germany, and had discredited the Moderate party which follows Bethmann-Hollweg; also that some of the Allied demands might deter American sympathy. He asked what was meant by "the liberation of Bohemia": would it mean Home Rule within the Austrian Empire? If it meant "absolute political liberation," he thought it ought to be resisted. Anything that meant the total military dismemberment of Austria or anything that was vital to the existence of the "real German country" would alienate American sympathy.

AN AGRICULTURAL MUDDLE.

Mr. O'Shea reminded the House of a country called Ireland. He said that in England the Board of Agriculture has been given power to seize and cultivate land not being or about to be properly cultivated. In Ireland there is no such power, but there is the power to compel Irish occupiers to till at least 10 per cent. more land than last year before March 25th.

[If a farmer is unable to comply with the demand he will be sent to prison no doubt, and his crops will be left untended, whilst it will be too late in the season for the Department of Agriculture to till the extra tenth!]

ROSSENDALE ELECTION.

Mr. Outhwaite stated that Lieutenant Monks, the recruiting officer, had been given leave of absence to act as election agent in the Rossendale election.

Mr. Macpherson said that Lieutenant Monks had not been relieved of his military duties. It appears that Lieutenant Monks was relieved of his military duties and was recalled to them after this question in Parliament.

THE GAG.

Mr. Bonar Law moved: "That, until the House otherwise determines, and so far as the House does not otherwise determine, no public Bills other than Government Bills be introduced, and no ballot be taken for determining the procedure of such Bills.

At this there were many protests raised, each objector voicing a claim to discuss his own favourite subject. Mr. Lough mentioned proportional representation; Mr. Swift MacNeill, who likened the motion to *curare*, which paralyses the patient, rode his pet hobby of the pro-German dukes; Mr. Hambro wanted the House sent away for a holiday, and its members enrolled as industrial volunteers; Mr. Lynch, with his usual erratic inconsequence, complained on the one hand that the motion was practically one to abolish the House of Commons, and on the other desired an autocratic Government consisting of a pro-Consul and two assistants.

Mr. Bonar Law granted satisfaction only to Mr. Swift MacNeill, promising him a Government Bill to deal with the dukes. He said that the Government realise, perhaps more than most Governments, its absolute dependence on the House of Commons."

The motion was agreed to without a division.

* * * *

Mr. Leslie Scott then moved an amendment to the Address, which had been framed by a committee representative of all the parties in the House, which called for a complete agricultural policy, securing legitimate profit to the farmer, good conditions to the labourer, and fullest development of resources.

WOMEN'S WAGES.

Mr. Prothero said that as a specially appointed Committee of well-known agriculturalists had been sitting for many months, these "big questions" should not be enlarged upon till its report was published. He begged the House to remember that the Board of Agriculture had no power to fix prices. He endeavoured to produce the impression that much is being done to cope with the situation, and appeared to place chief reliance on the War Agricultural Committees. He hoped to put 50,000 or 60,000 women on the land, but he would not say what the women would be paid: their wages would be fixed by the local committees. By the middle of March he hoped that 200 American motor tractors would be at the disposal of these committees. All the German prisoners who were skilled in agriculture were to be used on the land; he *thought* they would be paid the current wages, but he was "not sure."

THE POTATO PRICE.

The day before Mr. Bonar Law had said that the price of potatoes, which has been fixed at £6 a ton, was, of course, a *maximum* price. Mr. Prothero now said it was a *minimum* price. He expressed the view that the best way to get plenty of food would be to guarantee minimum prices to the farmers and allow them to charge as much more as they could get, but the Food Controller had been appointed to keep prices down. He disclosed the fact that Canada had been appealed to to sell wheat to Britain at less than the world market price for kinship's sake, but that the Canadian farmers had replied: "We should object to taking less than the market price so long as the British farmer sticks to his price and takes all the War profits which he can get."

* * * *

Sir W. Pearce said that Germany is using the nitrogen of the air for making high explosives for her muntions and for agricultural fertilisers.

How sad that this wonderful ingenuity should be used for destruction instead of for the enrichment of all human kind. Some day we shall turn the genius of the human brain to better account.

* * * *

Mr. W. C. Anderson said the agricultural difficulty was largely due to the long oppression and degradation of the agricultural labourer, who was often condemned to 14s. a week and a damp cottage.

TAXATION OF LAND VALUES.

Mr. Outhwaite and Commander Wedgwood urged the taxation of land values, and the former quoted a resolution passed at the Manchester Labour Party Conference demanding that such taxation should be included in the next Budget, the powers of the Defence of the Realm Act to be used to force landlords to declare the extent and value of their property.

Captain Bathurst, Parliamentary Secretary to the Food Controller, said that the relations between the Food Controller's Department and the Board of Agriculture were "of the friendliest character," and the Food Controller was "in no way responsible for the frequent increase in the price of bread." It apparently did not occur to him that the business of the Food Controller is to prevent such increase.

He said that during the last week the cost of milling offals and of cattle cake had been "considerably reduced."

IRELAND AGAIN.

Mr. Flavin retorted that in Ireland the price of flour had been raised, and milling offals could not be bought at any price.

Mr. Bathurst answered: "I do not happen to know the exact conditions in Ireland."

Here in a nutshell is the case for allowing Ireland to manage her own affairs.

Mr. Flavin: It was no use the Government taking over the control of raw material if manufacturers were allowed to increase prices as much as they pleased. He also pointed out that many families in the neighbourhood of a huge estate have not land "on which they could grow a stalk of potatoes," and applications to the landowner to let his land for tillage instead of grazing were refused.

* * * *

February 12th.—Mr. Roberts, in reply to Sir Kinloch-Cooke, stated that at the request of the Board of Trade the London Coal Porters' Union has set up committees to deal with absenteeism, and that men who had a bad record of attendance at work would have their exemption certificates withdrawn. More coercion!

BARNES SNUBBED.

Mr. Bonar Law said that as the new Royal Warrant involves a large increase in public expenditure he considered it necessary that it should be decided by the Government. A Committee of Ministers is now discussing it. Evidently the views of Mr. Barnes are on too generous a scale for his colleagues. He is, therefore, snubbed and put in the background. This is what a seat in the Cabinet means to Labour.

* * * *

Sir Kinloch-Cooke complained that the Government has commandeered all the coal for war purposes.

* * * *

Mr. James Hope stated that a Committee was considering the change to be made in the rations of the prisoners of war in view of the recommendations of the Food Controller. Are the Germans also reducing the rations of British prisoners? They are sure to retaliate if we begin it!

* * * *

Mr. Macpherson announced that a tribunal consisting of a High Court Judge, aided by a chemical expert, will inquire into the circumstances of the raid upon Sir Theodore Cook's room at the office of the "Field" newspaper.

* * * *

Mr. Butcher is discontented with the rigour of the Censor and is disturbed because an article signed by Mr. H. W. Nevinson on Sir Roger Casement and Sinn Fein has appeared in the August issue of the "Atlantic Monthly," and an open letter to President Wilson appeared in the American Press signed by Mr. Bertrand Russell. Mr. Cave said that Mr. Russell could be punished under the Defence of the Realm Act if it were worth while.

* * * *

Mr. Needham asked whether suitable expression of the nation's gratitude would be given to the relatives of soldiers who have lost their lives. Mr. Bonar Law hoped that there would be a War medal!

* * * *

We welcome Mr. Fisher's announcement that "the only way in which the supply of teachers can be placed on a permanently satisfactory footing will be by a substantial improvement in the emoluments and prospects of the teaching profession."

* * * *

Mr. Wing pointed out that soldiers transferred to Class W, and who have not quite recovered, are unable to get work, and the Statutory Committee refuses to relieve them because they are "not officially discharged soldiers." Mr. Forster asked for more information.

* * * *

The new Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. Bonar Law, proposed supplementary Votes of Credit amounting to £550,000,000.

* * * *

Mr. McKenna, the ex-Chancellor of the Exchequer, said that the enormous size of the new Vote of Credit could only mean one of two things: that a Recess was contemplated, or an election. If either supposition were correct the House should be informed. Mr. Bonar Law protested that neither alternative had entered his mind. Mr. McKenna warned the Government to be careful of its resources, especially in regard to the long-distance campaigns which he believed the Government would abandon if it could. The new methods of the Government, the various Controllers, and their apparent disregard for the fact that they are a part of a big organisation and not independent individuals did not escape his criticism.

* * * *

Mr. Ramsay Macdonald urged the necessity of making our plans for peace. Too much energy was being spent on keeping "enthusiasm at boiling point."

* * * *

A League of Nations was strongly advocated by Captain Lees Smith, who ably pointed out that a "victorious Peace" and a policy of boycott of Germany were not going to ensure the future peace of the world, which we were told was our aim! Conquest was only going to land us or our children in another war, and would render all the suffering and loss of life of this War futile.

* * * *

Commander Bellairs and Commander Wedgwood accused both Mr. Lees Smith and Mr. Ramsay Macdonald of being pro-Germans.

THE WORKERS' SUFFRAGE FEDERATION

To secure Human Suffrage, namely, a Vote for every Woman and Man of full age, and to win Social and Economic Freedom for the People.

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Minimum Subscription... 1d. a month

I wish to become a Member of the W.S.F. and enclose.....subscription and entrance fee for.....months.

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WHAT'S ON?

W.S.F. FIXTURES

OUTDOOR

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16th.
Fire Station, opposite Pitfield Street, Hoxton, 12.30 p.m., Mrs. Walker, Miss Beamish.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17th.
St. Stephen's Road, Roman Road, 11.30 a.m., Miss Price.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18th.
Highbury Corner, 11.30 a.m., Mrs. Boyce and others. Joint meeting with B.S.P.
Forest Gate Station, 11.30 a.m., Mrs. Walker and others. Joint meeting with N.-C.F.
Osborn Street, 11.30 a.m., Mrs. Bouvier.
Hyde Park, 3 p.m., Mrs. Boyce.
Victoria Park, 3 p.m., Peace meeting.
Cannon Street Road, 3 p.m., Mrs. Walker.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19th.
Bow Women's Hall, 8 p.m., General meeting.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20th.
Bonner Street, Green Street, 11.30 a.m., Miss Price.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21st.
53 St. Leonard's Street, 2 p.m., Mrs. Cressall.
Poplar Women's Hall, 8.15 p.m., Mr. John Scurr, lecture; discussion.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22nd.
St. Stephen's Road, Roman Road, 11.30 a.m., Mrs. Bouvier.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23rd.
Fire Station, opposite Pitfield Street, Hoxton, 12.30 p.m., Mrs. Boyce, Miss Beamish.
Lewisham Market Place, 2 p.m., Mrs. Walker.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24th.
Grundy Street, Poplar, 12 (noon), Miss Price.
Outside the Old Town Hall, Barking, 3 p.m., Mrs. Walker.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25th.
Hyde Park, 3 p.m., Miss Price.
Victoria Park, 3 p.m., Peace meeting.
Bow Women's Hall, 6 p.m., Public meeting.

INDOOR

CHANDOS HALL "AT HOME," 21a Maiden Lane (off Bedford Street, Strand).—The advertised meeting for the 17th has been cancelled on account of the Electoral Reform Conference in Holborn Hall. On February 24th, at 3.30 p.m., Miss Theodora Wilson Wilson, "Alternatives"; Mr. R. E. Roper, M.A., M.Ed., "Discipline and Punishment," Chair, Mrs. Bouvier.

BOW WOMEN'S HALL, 400 Old Ford Road, Bow.—To-morrow (Sunday), 6 p.m., Mr. E. W. Cant (B.S.P.), "Materialism and the War." Chair, Mrs. Boyce. Sunday, 25th, Concert.

London Section General Meeting at 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, Monday 19th, at 8 p.m.

An entertainment in aid of the "Mothers' Arms" on Saturday, February 24th, at 8 p.m., has been kindly arranged by Nurse Hebbes and friends. Admission by programme, 3d. and 6d.

Friends and supporters will be pleased to hear that improved heating arrangments have been made at the Bow Women's Hall.

POPLAR WOMEN'S HALL, 20 Railway St., Poplar (opposite South Bromley Station, N.L.R.).—Wednesday, February 21st, at 8.15 p.m., Mr. John Scurr will lecture.

Admission free. All are welcome!

OTHER ORGANISATIONS

To-morrow, Sunday, 8.15 p.m., at Kingsley Hall, Bow. Mr. Leyton Richards will speak, Bar and open discussion 9.30 p.m.

London Labour Council for Adult Suffrage.—Electoral Reform Conference in Holborn Hall, Gray's Inn Road, W.C., Saturday, February 17th, 3.30 to 6.30 p.m. Visitors tickets to the Conference, price 1s., may be obtained from the Secretary, at 400 Old Ford Road, or from the affiliated organisations.

Following the Conference, a social and dance will be held at 7.30 p.m. Mr. Fred Hagger will act as M.C. and Miss Harris will arrange the entertainment.

All Societies are cordially invited to send in notices of forthcoming events for our "What's On" column. Fee, 1d. per word.

"WILLING'S PRESS GUIDE." Forty-fourth Annual Issue. A reliable book of reference. Printed and published by James Willing Ltd., 125 Strand, London. Price 1s.

W.S.F. BRANCHES

ARE YOU AN ACTIVE WORKING MEMBER?

LONDON

Barking.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Langford, Ailsa Craig, 97 Essex Road.

Bow.—400 Old Ford Road, E. Hon. Secretary: Miss Stevens. Branch meetings will be held every second and fourth Monday. Next meeting, February 26th, at 8 p.m. DREADNOUGHT sales week ending February 10th, 621. Miss Harriet, 138; Mrs. Holloway, 133; Miss O'Brien, 120; Mr. George Lansbury, 66; Miss Lynch, 19; Miss Beamish, 13; Mrs. Savoy, 12; General, 120.

Bromley.—53 St. Leonard's Street. Hon. Secs.: Mrs. Lansbury, Mrs. Wood. DREADNOUGHTS sold, 19.

Canning Town.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Parsons, 94 Ravenscroft Road.

Enfield and Edmonton.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Beavis, 171 Church Street, Lower Edmonton.

Leyton.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Hart, 73 Calderon Road. DREADNOUGHTS sold, 52.

Poplar.—Hon. Sec.: Miss E. Lagsding, 20 Railway Street. DREADNOUGHTS sold, 95. Per Mrs. Shlette, 75; General Sales, 20.

Tidal Basin.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Drake, 49 Crediton Road, DREADNOUGHT sales, average, 36.

St. Pancras.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Redgrove, B.S.P. Hall, 44 Malden Road, Kentish Town. DREADNOUGHTS sold, 13.

Willesden.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Sheppard, 141 Villiers Road. DREADNOUGHTS sold, 12.

PROVINCES.

Birmingham.—Hon. Sec.: Miss A. F. Boden, 10 Sandhurst Road, Moseley. Four fortnightly lectures will be held in Stirchley Institute at 7.30 p.m.

Bradford.—Hon. Sec.: Miss McHale, 12 Airedale College Terrace. DREADNOUGHTS sold, 26.

Brynmawr and Nantyglo.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Hayward, Coedcae, Garn Fack.

Burnley.—Hon. Sec. pro tem.: Mrs. Mortimer Holden, The Nurseries, Accrington.

Chester-le-Street.—Hon. Sec.: Miss Faulkner, 14 Hilda Terrace, South Pelaw, Chester-le-Street.

Chopwell.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Bell, 62 Forth Street. Fortnightly meetings are to be held to discuss such books as "Woman and Economics," "Woman and Labour," etc.

Cornsay and Quebec.—Hon. Sec. pro tem.: Miss Ellis, Dundalk House, Neville's Cross. Branch meeting, DREADNOUGHTS sold, 12. Monday, at 197 High Street, Cornsay. DREADNOUGHTS sold, 30.

Doncaster.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Kent, 32 St. Sepulchre Gate.

Durham.—Hon. Sec.: Miss C. Ellis, Dundalk House, Neville's Cross.

Ferryhill.—Hon. Sec.: Miss Ruby Stoddart, 12 Hackworth Street, Dean Bank. DREADNOUGHTS sold, 12.

Leeds.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Hunter, 7 Sugdenfold, Armley. DREADNOUGHTS sold, 84.

A conference convened by the Leeds W.S.F. Branch was held at the Clarion Café, Gascoigne Street, Boar Lane, Leeds, on Saturday, February 10th, with the object of considering the advisability of forming an Adult Suffrage Council. The Adult Suffrage resolution was carried unanimously. Mrs. Bouvier addressed the members of the conference, Mr. George Stone (North Ward I.L.P.) being in the chair. The following societies had sent delegates:—Holbeck Women's Labour League Guild, Hunslett Branch (Women's Co-operative Guild), Leeds Central Committee (Women's Labour League), Leeds Labour Party (Alderman Fountain), Armley Socialist Party, West Leeds Socialist Party, East Hunslett Women's Labour League, North Ward I.L.P., Leeds Branch W.S.F. The conference was adjourned until that day four weeks to enable delegates to report to their respective organisations.

A public meeting was held in the same hall at 7.30 p.m., when Mrs. Bouvier gave an address on "Internationalism," which was followed by many questions and a lively discussion. A very successful open-air meeting was held in Victoria Square on Sunday night.

Leicester.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Hill, 12 Sweetbriar Road.

Manchester.—Hon. Sec.: Miss F. Wassilewski, 18 Broughton Street, N.

Medomsley.—Hon. Sec.: Tom Orr, Esq., 6 Derwent Cottages, Durham. DREADNOUGHTS sold, 24.

Newcastle-on-Tyne.—Hon. Sec.: Mr. Nicholson, 19 Alexandra Road, North Heaton.

Portsmouth.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Clarges, 200 Westfield Road, E. Southsea. DREADNOUGHTS sold, 39.

Prudhoe-on-Tyne.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Parks, 4 Riding Terrace, Mickley Sqquare. DREADNOUGHTS sold, 8.

Sheffield.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Chandler, 23 Abbey Lane, Woodseats. Members' meetings are held alternate Thursdays, at 7.30 p.m., Trades Hall, Charles Street. DREADNOUGHTS sold, 104.

Southampton.—Hon. Sec.: Miss Helsby, 77 Tennyson Road. DREADNOUGHTS sold, 12.

York: Huddersfield, Rotherham, Wakefield.—Organiser: Miss Stephen, c/o Mrs. Gee, 15 Springwood Terrace, Huddersfield.

SCOTLAND.

Glasgow.—Hon. Sec.: Lachlan Smith, Esq., 126 Bothwell Street.

"SNOW WHITE AND THE SEVEN DWARFS."

This dainty operetta was given at the William Morris Hall, Walthamstow, last Monday, in aid of "The Mothers' Arms," our crêche in Old Ford Road. Our warmest congratulations and thanks are given to Miss Sneddon and her friends, who provided the evening's entertainment; the children, who acted and sang so charmingly; Mr. Lane and Mr. Buck, who managed the stage and scenery; and the Walthamstow B.S.P. for the use of their hall.

ROSSENDALE PEACE CANDIDATE POLLS ONE-THIRD

Congratulations to Mr. Albert Taylor, the Rossendale Peace candidate and his co-workers on the result of their brave fight. Nearly one-third of the votes polled in the contest have been secured for the Peace candidate. This is a remarkable triumph in view of the fact that the time was too short for the Peace candidate to build up the organisation necessary for making a canvass of the electors, whilst Sir J. H. Maden had both the Liberal and Tory organisations at his disposal, together with unlimited Party funds and the support of the entire daily Press. At first the Peace candidate was regarded with contempt by the Coalition, but the Party politicians very soon awoke to the need for defending their position, and the Coalition then proceeded to put all the vigour it could into the contest.

Donations to be sent to the Hon. Treasurer, Dr. Tchaykovsky, Langham House, Harrow, or to the Hon. Financial Secretary, Miss N. L. Smyth, 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.

All parcels to 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.

GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGED

LIBEL ACTION GUARANTEE FUND.—Mrs. Edwards, £1; Rev. H. Chalmers, 5s.; Mrs. D. C. Campbell, 5s.; Mr. David Halliday, 3s.; M.H.W., Liverpool, 2s. 6d.; Mrs. H. Humphreys, 1s.; Mrs. Annie Hobbs, 1s.

MILK AND GENERAL DISTRESS.—Board of Education grant for Day Nursery, £117 6s.; "Daily Graphic" Self-Denial Week, £1; Miss Chick, £1; Mrs. Lilley, £1; Misses Mann (monthly), £1; Mrs. Fry, £1; Nurse Hebbes (weekly), 12s.; Miss M. C. Gittens, 10s.; Mrs. Richmond (fortnightly), 10s.; Miss J. T. Drewry (monthly), 5s.; Mrs. Heywood Bright (weekly), 5s.; Miss Sinclair, per Miss Burgis, 5s.; Miss Crabb (monthly), 3s. 6d.; Mrs. Apthorpe, 2s. 6d.; Miss Griffith, per Miss S. Pankhurst, 2s. 6d. COLLECTIONS: L.S.A. Tool Room, £1 8s. 0½d.; Misses E. Lagsding and L. Barker (Green's Yard), 12s.; Miss N. Smyth (Churn), 6s.; Miss Ethel Lawrence, 6s.; Misses K. Lagsding and T. Barker (Cubitt Town), 5s. 6½d.; Miss Lettice Fox (half-pennies), 4s. 6d.

GENERAL FUND.—Mrs. Mason (Bromley curtains), £2; Mrs. Lansbury, £1; Miss Constance Eagle (Peace Campaign), 1s. 3½d.; Mrs. F. Suker, 1s. COLLECTIONS: Mrs. Walker (Hyde Park), £1 17s.; Bow Restaurant, 7s. 3d.; Mrs. Boyce (two), 7s. 2d.; Osborn Street, 7s.; Norwegian Women's Christian Association, per Mrs. Bouvier, 4s. 4d.; Mrs. Walker, 3s. 3d.; Bow Women's Hall, 2s. 6d.; Poplar Women's Hall, 1s. 9d.; Miss Price, 1s.

DREADNOUGHT FUND.—Per Mrs. Drake, £4 1s.; Mrs. Almond, per Mrs. Drake, £1; Mr. F. P. Harris, 2s. COLLECTION: Miss Joyce Halley (aged 7), 4s.

DREADNOUGHT GUARANTEE FUND.—Mrs. Fels, £10.

CLOTHES, ETC.—Miss Wild, Anon, Miss Powell, Mr. and Mrs. Eyres, per National Union of Women's' Suffrage Societies, Miss Claire Oldham, Mrs. Delghton, Mrs. Henderson, Miss Turner and Miss Bradish Brighton.

GROCERIES.—Hampstead National Food Fund.

MOTHERS AND BABIES

The Mothers' Arms, 438 Old Ford Road, Bow.

Day nursery from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Doctor's consultation and baby-weighing, Mondays, 2.30 p.m. Mothers and babies can consult Nurse at any time.

Dental Clinic Wednesday, March 7th, at 2.15 p.m.

20 Railway Street, Poplar.
(opposite South Bromley Station).

Doctor's consultation and baby-weighing, Tuesdays, 2.30 p.m. Nurse may be seen at any time.

53 St. Leonard's Street, Bromley-by-Bow.

Doctor's consultation and baby-weighing, Wednesdays, 2 p.m.

All mothers and children are welcome.

Cost Price Restaurants at 400 Old Ford Road, and 20 Railway Street. Dinners from 12 till 2 p.m. daily.

Wants.

Subscriptions to the milk and food fund. Doctoring and nursing can help little if mothers and children are unable to obtain the nourishment that is ordered.

New laid eggs, barley, glaxo, virol, for invalids, medicine bottles, clothing and shoes for adults and boys and girls of all ages.

For baby, four gowns, four barrows, two flannel bands, twelve napkins, three vests, and a cot blanket; for mother, two nightgowns, woolen shawl, three towels, two sheets, and a pair of pillow cases.

Growing plants, flowers and branches for all our centres and for the L.C.C. schools. We should be grateful to friends who would supply us regularly. We also need vegetables and fruit.

More cupboards are needed at all our centres.

Health Talks for Mothers are held the first and third Fridays in the month at 3 p.m., at the Mothers' Arms.

MISCELLANEOUS ADVERTISEMENTS

ADULT SUFFRAGE.—A review of the existing franchise anomalies with strong arguments for Votes for All. Published by the London Labour Council for Adult Suffrage.

Copies of this pamphlet 1d. each, or 9d. per dozen, postage extra from Hon. Sec., 400 Old Ford Road, E.

FAMILY LIMITATION DOCTRINE. Post free, 1½d.—Malthusian League, Queen Anne's Chambers, Westminster.

MONTESSORI METHOD—Vacancy for pupil teacher; fee, £5 5s. a term.—Apply, Miss Muriel Matters, The Mothers' Arms, 438 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.

SOUTHEND: Furnished Apartments, 8 minutes from sea and train; or Furnished House conveniently situated.—Mr. Warr, 8 Hastings Road.

TEACHER FOR MATRICULATION, must be good at Mathematics and English. Evening lessons required.—Apply, "Violet," this Office.

SUPERVISOR with workroom experience wanted.—Apply, Toy Factory, 45 Norman Road, Bow, E.

W.S.F. Draw Competition on March 24th, 1917, in aid of the W.S.F., "Dreadnought," and Propaganda Fund. Prizes: 1st, Gentleman's Gold Watch; 2nd an Alarm Clock; 3rd, Lady's or Gentleman's Umbrella; 4th, Bound Volume of "The Woman's Dreadnought." Entrance, 2d. Draw Secretary; Mrs. Drake, 49 Crediton Road, Tidal Basin.

Charge for advertising in this column, 1d. per word; four insertions for the price of three.

Clippings of Material of all kinds (must measure at least 5 by 6 inches) can be used in our Toy Factory at 45 Norman Road, Bow, E., and will be most gratefully received if friends will kindly send them.

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